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Recent British Painting

The Arts Council 1954

Foreword

The aim of this exhibition is to present a collection of paintings which are individually of interest and which together represent the current phase of British painting. Inevitably, within the compass of one small exhibition, a number of names which might well have been included are missing and generally speaking it has been preferred to include two works, where they have been available, by each artist rather than to increase the number of artists represented.

From a collection revealing such varied techniques and apparently disparate objectives it would be hard as well as rash to draw any conclusion about current trends and tendencies in British painting. Indeed, fragmentation of artistic effort caused by the seeming disinclination of British artists to band themselves together in groups, their individualistic tendency—which for a long time has been both a strength and a weakness—is more than ever apparent.

Perhaps the only label which can be applied equally to all the works included in this exhibition is, in its special sense, the adjective 'contemporary'. But we would do well to remember that contemporaneity is a quality which is incidental to the lasting value of a work of art. The good art of all periods is always contemporary: it sounds, as it were, the harmonics, and so implies and makes audible the fundamental, of its age. But 'contemporary' painting is not necessarily good painting. The nature of good painting is constant, only style changes, and it is as difficult to look through what is merely contemporary and to see what is lasting, as it is apparently for some people to look at contemporary painting at all. Only by constant acquaintance with new painting can discrimination be learnt and it is hoped that this exhibition may both give pleasure to its viewers and also provide a useful opportunity for the practice of such discernment.

The Arts Council acknowledges with gratitude the help received in getting together this exhibition, from the artists represented; from the private owners who have lent pictures; and from Gimpel Fils, The Hanover, Lefevre, Leicester and Redfern Galleries.

JOHN COMMANDER

The Catalogue

NOTE: *Measurements are given in inches : height precedes width. Prices are given of those paintings which are for sale. Enquiries by prospective purchasers should be addressed to* THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN, *4 St. James's Square, London S.W.1 or to one of the Regional Offices of the Council.*

Francis Bacon

Born in Dublin, 1910. First one-man exhibition at the Hanover Gallery, 1949. Most recent exhibition at Beaux Arts Gallery, 1953. Bacon's work has exercised a considerable influence on some other painters in recent years.

1 Head VI
Oil : 39 x 32
1949
Collection: The Arts Council of Great Britain

Elinor Bellingham Smith

Born 1910. The wife of Rodrigo Moynihan, R.A. Studied at the Slade School. One-man show Leicester Galleries, 1952. A large painting purchased by the Arts Council from the Festival of Britain Exhibition '60 Paintings for '51'.

2 Winter Afternoon
Oil : 20 x 24
1952
Collection: The Arts Council of Great Britain

Prunella Clough

Born in London, 1919. Studied at the Chelsea School of Art from 1937-9. Exhibitions at Leger Gallery 1947, Roland Browse and Delbanco 1949, Leicester Galleries 1953. Paints mainly industrial subjects.

3 Building Site
Oil : 19 x 20
1953
28 guineas

4 Telephone Engineer
Oil : 30 x 20
1952
40 guineas

Cecil Collins

Born in Plymouth, 1908. Studied at Plymouth School of Art and at the Royal College of Art. First one-man show at the Bloomsbury Gallery, 1935: others in 1944 1945 and 1948.

5 Hymn to Night
Oil : 36 x 48
1951
200 guineas

6 Fête Galante
Oil : 25 x 38
1951
120 guineas

Robert Colquhoun

Born at Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, 1914. Studied at Glasgow School of Art 1933-38. Travelled in Italy, France, Holland and Belgium. First one-man show 1943.

7 Stockman with Pig
Oil : 22 x 18
1953
£45

8 Study of Sow
Oil : 12 x 14
1953
£30

Christopher Cornford

Born 1917. Studied at Chelsea School of Art. Master of Painting, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne 1946-52.

9 The Abandonment of Ariadne by Theseus
Oil : 24 x 39½
1953
35 guineas

Roger de Grey

Born 1918. Studied at Chelsea School of Art. Until recently Master of Painting at King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Teaches at R.C.A. First one-man show, April 1954.

10 View from Lower Window
Oil : 30 x 36
1952
65 guineas

Paul Feiler

Born 1918. Studied at the Slade School of Art. First one-man show at Redfern Gallery 1953.

11 Small Harbour Window
Oil : 20 x 30
1953
35 guineas

12 Newlyn Harbour, Evening
Oil : 20 x 24
1953
30 guineas

Lucian Freud

Born 1922. Studied at the Central School of Art and at the Goldsmith's College. First one-man show 1944 followed by others in 1946 and 1950. Large painting purchased by The Arts Council from '60 Paintings for '51' Exhibition.

13 Portrait of John Minton
Oil : 16 x 10
1952
Lent by John Minton, Esq.

Martin Froy

Born in London, 1926. Studied at Slade School of Art 1948-51. Appointed to Gregory Fellowship in Painting, University of Leeds 1951. Exhibited at Hanover Gallery 1952.

14 Head
Oil : 20 x 16
1953
£30

William Gear

Born in Scotland, 1915. Studied at the Edinburgh School of Art. Studied in Europe 1937-8. Worked in Paris after the war. Large painting purchased by The Arts Council from '60 Paintings for '51' Exhibition. One of four British painters represented at Biennale, Sao Paulo 1954.

15 Summer Garden: July—August '51
Oil : 48 x 32
1951
85 guineas

16 Study in Grey: October '53
Oil : 20 x 24
1953
35 guineas

Lawrence Gowing

Born in London, 1918. Studied at Euston Road School under William Coldstream. Professor of Fine Art in the University of Durham since 1948.

17 Study for 'Intruders in the Wood'
Oil : 35 x 27½
1950
Collection: The Arts Council of Great Britain

18 Miss S. of Winlaton Mill
Oil : 36 x 30
1952
£200

Josef Herman

Born at Warsaw, 1911. Lived for several years in Belgium and France. Came to Britain in 1939. Works in South Wales. Much of his painting has its subject in the life and landscape of the mining community. Has recently painted in Burgundy and in Palestine.

19 Miner
Oil : 24 x 20
1948
50 guineas

20 Street in a Burgundian Village
Oil : 23½ x 28
1951
60 guineas

Patrick Heron

Born at Leeds, 1920. Lived at St. Ives, Cornwall, 1925-30. Studied at Slade School of Art, 1937-9. First one-man show, Redfern Gallery, 1947. Art Critic of The New Statesman and Nation 1947-50. One of four British Painters represented at Biennale, Sao Paulo, 1954.

21 The Blue Window
Oil : 36 x 18
1952
70 guineas

22 The Girl in Green
Oil : 36 x 17½
1952
60 guineas

Roger Hilton

Born 1911. Studied at Slade School of Art and in Paris. First one-man show Gimpel Fils 1952.

23 Painting
Oil : 25 x 30
1953
35 guineas

Ivon Hitchens

Born in London, 1893. Studied at the St. John's Wood School of Art and at the Royal Academy Schools. First one-man show at the Mayor Gallery, 1925. Member of the Society of Mural Painters. Is currently working on large mural for Cecil Sharp House.

24 Pheasant Ride
Oil : 21 x 42
1950
£150

25 Standing Figure 'May Morning'
Oil : 16 x 36
1949
£100

Peter Lanyon

Born at St. Ives, Cornwall, 1918. Founder member of the St. Ives Crypt Group and Penwith Society of Arts. Teaches painting at Bath Academy of Art, Corsham. Has held exhibitions at Gimpel Fils and at the Leicester Galleries.

26 West Penwith
Oil : 11 x 43
1949
60 guineas

27 The Green Mile
Oil : 59 x 16
1952
75 guineas

Louis le Brocquy

Born in Ireland, 1917. Without academic training. First one-man show 1945, several others subsequently at Gimpel Fils.

28 Man with Towel
Oil : 24 x 20
1952
60 guineas

29 Unborn Evangelist
Oil on aluminium leaf : 18 x 15
1948
60 guineas

L. S. Lowry

Born in Manchester, 1887. Studied at Manchester School of Art. First one-man show, Lefevre Gallery 1939. His subjects are drawn generally from industrial Lancashire.

30 Yachts at Lytham
Oil : 16 x 20
1951
£90

31 The Gateway
Oil : 19 x 16¾
1951
£65

Robert MacBryde

Born in Ayrshire, 1913. Worked for five years in a factory and engineering works before entering the Glasgow School of Art at nineteen. Studied in France and Italy 1937-9. Has held several one-man shows, often with his fellow-Scotsman, Colquhoun.

32 Still Life
Oil : 18 x 24
1953
£90

Robert Medley

Born 1906. Studied at the Slade School of Art and in Paris. Large painting purchased by the Arts Council from '60 Paintings for '51' Exhibition.

33 Summer Eclogue no. 1
Oil : 51 x 63
1950
Collection: The Arts Council of Great Britain

John Minton

Born 1917, near Cambridge. Studied at the St. John's Wood School of Art and later in Paris. Travelled widely on Continent until 1939, First one-man show, 1942. Teaches at Royal College of Art.

34 Still Life with Electric Heater
Oil : 30 x 24
1950
£45

35 Spencer Churchill
Oil : 40 x 30
1952
£60

Henry Moore

Born at Castleford, Yorkshire, 1898. Studied at Leeds School of Art and at the Royal College of Art. Travelling Scholarship, 1925, France and Italy. Official war artist. Awarded the International Sculpture Prize, Venice Biennale, 1948. Prizewinner at Biennale, Sao Paulo 1954.

36 Two figures
Chalk and watercolour : 22 x 24
1948
Lent by Mrs. Irina Moore

37 Seated woman
Chalk, pen and watercolour : 27¾ x 22½
1948
Lent by Mrs. Irina Moore

Ben Nicholson

Born at Denham, Bucks, in 1894. Son of the late Sir William and Mabel Nicholson. With no regular art training save a casual term at the Slade School, he worked from 1911-14 in Tours, Milan and Madeira, and from 1917-18 in Pasadena, U.S.A. Lives and works in St. Ives, Cornwall.

A member of the '7 and 5' group in London 1925-36, and of 'abstraction-creation' in Paris 1933-35. A founder member of the Penwith Society of Arts, St. Ives. Has held one-man exhibitions in the U.S.A. and was awarded the first prize at the Carnegie International Exhibition at Pittsburg in 1952. Executed a large non-representational mural for the Time-Life Building in London. Is exhibiting 50 paintings at the Venice Biennale in June this year, with a retrospective exhibition following at the Tate Gallery.

38 March 2—53 (persian lilac)
Oil : 10½ x 14
1953
£75

39 August 11—53 (meridian)
Oil : 48¾ x 36½
1953
£420

Victor Pasmore

Born at Chelsham, Surrey, 1908. Had no formal art training, but painted in his spare time while in local government service from 1928-38, studying at the Central School of Arts and Crafts. One of the founders and leading teachers of the Euston Road School. In 1948 Pasmore's style changed completely and his subsequent painting has all been abstract. Large painting purchased by The Arts Council from '60 Paintings for '51' Exhibition.

40 Abstract Composition
Oil : 23½ x 17¾
1951
75 guineas

41 Abstract Composition
Oil : 17¾ x 14½
1951
75 guineas

John Piper

Born at Epsom, Surrey, 1903. Studied at Richmond School of Art and later at the Royal College of Art. Official war artist, Second World War. Perhaps best known as a topographical painter and draughtsman, Piper has designed scenery and costumes for theatre, opera and ballet, illustrated (and written) books and is currently engaged on designing three large stained glass windows.

42 Foliate Heads
Chalk and watercolour : 22 x 27
1953
80 guineas

43 House at Narbeth
Oil : 25 x 30
1953
150 guineas

Alan Reynolds

Born at Newmarket, Suffolk, 1926. Studied at Woolwich Art School and Royal College of Art. First one-man show, Redfern Gallery 1952.

44 The Village in Winter
Oil : 23½ x 35½
1952
Collection: The Arts Council of Great Britain

45 The Farm in Autumn
Oil : 18 x 24
1953
Lent by: Rex de C. Nan Kivell, Esq.

Ceri Richards

Born in Swansea 1903. Studied at Swansea School of Art and the Royal College of Art. Many one-man exhibitions at Redfern Gallery. Richards' work is characterised by his bold treatment of line and colour. One of four British painters represented at Biennale, Sao Paulo, 1954.

46 Sunlight in Trafalgar Square
Oil : 36 x 36
1951
120 guineas

47 The Pianist
Oil : 30 x 25
1949
£75

Will Roberts

Born at Ruabon, North Wales, 1907. Studied casually at various Art schools 1930-46. Encouraged by Josef Herman to take up painting seriously: worked under Herman 1946-7. First one-man show in London planned for Autumn 1954.

48 Man Smoking a Pipe
Oil : 30 x 24
1952
45 guineas

Claude Rogers

Born in London, 1907. Studied at the Slade School of Art. One of the founders of the Euston Road School, 1937. Large painting purchased by The Arts Council from '60 Paintings for '51' exhibition. Teaches at the Slade School.

49 Woman in Red
Oil : 20 x 18
1943
Lent by : Miss Elsie Few

50 Still Life
Oil : 28 x 18
1946
70 guineas

William Scott

Born in Scotland, 1913. Studied at Belfast School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. Subsequently lived for some time in France. Teaches painting at Bath Academy of Art, Corsham. One of four British painters represented at Biennale, Sao Paulo, 1954.

51 Slagheap Landscape
Oil : 28½ x 36
1953
Collection: The Arts Council of Great Britain

52 Fish
Oil : 22 x 29½
1952
80 guineas

Ruskin Spear, R.A.

Born in London, 1911. Studied at the Hammersmith School of Art and at the Royal College of Art. A.R.A. 1943, R.A. 1954. Teaches at the Royal College of Art.

53 South Kensington
Oil : 18 x 15
1951
65 guineas

54 Public Bar
Oil : 21 x 16
1951
£75

Graham Sutherland

Born in London, 1903. Studied at Goldsmith's School of Art. Official war artist, Second World War. Commissioned to paint a crucifixion for St. Matthew's, Northampton, 1946. Won painting prize, Venice Biennale 1951. Subsequently an important retrospective exhibition shewn in Venice, Paris, Amsterdam, Zurich and at the Tate Gallery. At present working on design of tapestry for Coventry Cathedral.

55 Variation on a Theme II
Oil : 36 x 27½
1953
£200

Keith Vaughan

Born at Selsey Bill, Sussex, 1912. Designer in an advertising agency until 1939. First one-man show, Lefevre Gallery, 1943: others subsequently at Redfern and Leicester Galleries. Teaches at the Central School of Arts and Crafts.

56 Fishermen and Bathers
Oil : 30 x 50
1951
110 guineas

57 The Seed Dies
Oil : 13 x 16
1952
45 guineas

FOISTER AND JAGG, CAMBRIDGE